



Returning to In-Person Early Intervention Services: What to Expect

First Steps wants your family to be safe and healthy. Service Coordinators and providers will follow guidelines from the state and their agency. These guidelines are designed to keep your family and your providers safe.

Do we have to go back to in-person services?

When and how services happen will be up to you. You know your child and your family better than anyone else. Your provider will contact you to talk about the possibilities that are available.

What are my options?

Service options may change over time. Your provider and Service Coordinator will keep you updated. You may choose to continue with tele-intervention for a longer period. You may choose to have your provider return to your home or you may choose a combination of these (and in-person visit one week and a virtual visit the next). You may want to use outside spaces such as a backyard or a park. Your provider will help you think through the best option for your family.

Will my provider be wearing a mask?

Providers may be wearing a mask in your home. You may want to do a video call before the visit with your provider to show your child what they may look like. You may also want to show your child a mask or a picture of someone wearing a mask. If possible, put on a mask yourself. Take it on and off to show your child that you are the same person both ways. Let your child hold, play with and explore a mask. Tell your child that the mask keeps everyone safe. Your child will not be required to wear a mask.

When my provider comes back into our home, will our sessions be the same as before?

If you decide to try in-person sessions, your provider will describe what they will be like. Your provider will review the safety requirements. These may feel strange at first, but they are there for your safety. Even though the provider will be back in your home, things may not be exactly the same. Your provider will need to maintain distance from you and your child. Your provider will talk to you about coaching. Coaching means that you will take the lead and work with your child while the provider asks questions, observes, makes suggestions, and gives you feedback. This may feel different from previous in-home visits, but research shows coaching is *more effective* because YOU are the expert on your child.

More questions?

If you have any questions or concerns please, ask your provider or your Service Coordinator. We are committed to finding options that keep your family safe and working toward the developmental goals you have for your child.

In partnership,

First Steps Team

